

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are now pending in the application. By this paper, Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, and 12-26 have been amended. The basis for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner states that the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 25, 2006 fails to comply with 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(2) for failing to include the listed Communication from the Korean Patent Office with the Information Disclosure Statement.

The Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 25, 2006 included Japanese Publication No. 10-081012 as well as the Communication from the Korean Patent Office. A review of the PAIR System revealed that each document was received and scanned by the Office on January 25, 2006. The Image File Wrapper of the PAIR System indicates that a "Foreign Reference" and "NPL Documents" were scanned into the Record on January 25, 2006. Applicant notes that the "Foreign Reference" contains 43 pages, 42 of which are from Japanese Publication No. 10-081012, and one of which is from the Communication from the Korean Patent Office. Applicant further notes that the "NPL Documents" contains three pages, two of which are from the Communication

from the Korean Patent Office, and one of which is from Japanese Publication No. 10-081012.

In light of the foregoing, it would appear that the Office received both of Japanese Publication No. 10-081012 and the Communication from the Korean Patent Office on January 25, 2006, but inadvertently mixed the documents when scanning them into the Record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 25, 2006 complies with 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(2). Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider the Information Disclosure Statement as filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kitahara (U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,395).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 recites a method of controlling the driving of a function liquid droplet ejection head having disposed therein a plurality of nozzle arrays with a different function liquid droplet ejection amount per unit nozzle. The method further recites driving the plurality of nozzle arrays by using a single drive signal having a plurality of ejection pulses corresponding to the plurality of nozzle arrays.

Independent Claim 8 recites a function liquid droplet ejection apparatus including a function liquid droplet ejection head having a function liquid disposed therein and a plurality of nozzle arrays with a different function liquid droplet ejection amount per unit nozzle, whereby the function liquid droplet ejection head is moveable relative to a work

piece. A control means controls the driving of the plurality of nozzle arrays by using a single drive signal having a plurality of ejection pulses corresponding to the plurality of nozzle arrays in one print cycle.

Kitahara fails to disclose a plurality of nozzle arrays having a different function liquid droplet ejection amount per unit nozzle. Rather, Kitahara discloses a print head (10) having a number of nozzles (64) capable of ejecting a plural number of ink droplets of different *weights* from *one and the same nozzle*. See Kitahara at Col. 2, Ins. 4-9, and Col. 5, Ins. 17-20.

Applicant respectfully submits that varying a *weight* of a liquid droplet ejected from a nozzle is not the same as varying an *amount* of liquid ejected from a nozzle. Because different liquids have different densities, varying a weight of liquid ejected from a nozzle would not necessarily vary the amount of liquid ejected from the nozzle. Conversely, controlling an amount of liquid ejected from a nozzle allows for control of the liquid ejected without regard to a density of the liquid being ejected. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that adjusting a weight of a liquid ejected from a nozzle is not akin to controlling an amount of liquid ejected from a nozzle.

In addition to the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Kitahara fails to teach or suggest a plurality of nozzles each having a different function liquid droplet ejection amount. Kitahara simply teaches that a print head may have a series of nozzles and that an individual nozzle may be adjusted to produce ink droplets of different weights. Nowhere does Kitahara suggest varying a function liquid droplet ejection amount of each nozzle in a series of nozzles such that each nozzle ejects a different amount of liquid.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 8, as well as Claims 2 and 9, respectively dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,395) in view of Minowa et al. (U.S. Pat. Application No. 2001/0002134).

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,395) in view of Junhua (U.S. Pat. Application No. 2003/0085962).

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,395) in view of Takahashi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,527,354).

Claims 11-20 and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,395) in view of Nakamura et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,933,958).

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,395) modified by Minowa et al. (U.S. Pat. Application No. US 2001/0002134) as applied to Claim 20 above, and further in view of Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,364,450).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 8 are believed to be in condition for allowance in light of the foregoing remarks. Because Claims 3-6 and 10-26 respectively depend from Claims 1 and 8, Claims 3-6 and 10-26 are similarly believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claim 7 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has not rewritten Claim 7 in independent form, as independent Claims 1 and 8 are believed to be in condition for allowance in light of the foregoing remarks.

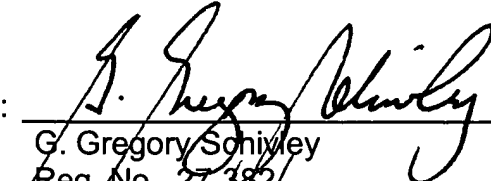
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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